

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 are currently pending in the present application, Claims 1 and 8-14 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment, and Claims 2-7 having been amended by way of the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter; Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Fognini, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,019,785, hereinafter “Fognini”); and Claims 2-7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As an initial matter, Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter in Claims 2-7. In an effort to expedite prosecution of this application, Claim 2 has been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 1. Claims 1 and 8-14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, leaving only allowed claims pending. Accordingly, independent Claim 2 (and Claims 3-8 dependent therefrom) is respectfully submitted to be allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

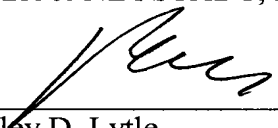
Respectfully submitted,

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